aware of any specific scheme for providing free internet access to senior citizens.

(b) and (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) is the biggest Government ISP. Presently they have no plans to introduce the internet connections to students and senior citizens in the country.

Internet Node in Tamil Nadu

945. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Internet Node at Sivaganga and Tirupattur in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) An Internet Node catering to Dial up customers is already operational at Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu. There is no plan to provide separate Internet Node at Tirupattur in Tamil Nadu since internet access at Tirupattur is already available on local call basis.

Bifurcation of Rural Telecom Sector

946. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through a recent order has deprived more than 80 lakh subscribers of the status of 'Rural subscribers' by bifurcating the 'Rural' Telecom sector;

(b) whether earlier telecom sector was classified into two major categories as 'Urban' and 'Rural' based on census reports;

(c) whether TRAI's review of the 'Rural' classification is based on 'Short distance charging areas'; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The TRAI *vide* its Tariff Order dated 24th January, 2003 has proposed to define 'Rural Subscribers' as those residing in rural short distance charging areas, typically, Tehsils, with effect from 1.4.2003. At present, subscribers residing in rural areas as per census of India are being charged telephone service tariffs as prescribed by TRAI for rural subscribers.

Closure of sugar mills

†947. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sugar mills closed during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to restart these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The State-wise details of sugar mills which did not work during the three sugar seasons *viz.*, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Directorate of Sugar do not maintain/receive any information regarding reasons for closure of the sugar mills.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the entrepreneurs to take steps for re-opening the closed mills.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.